THE
Board of Trade Journal.

Vol. LXII.] July 16, 1908. [No. 607

The Offices of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade are at **73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.** — registered telegraphic address, "**Advantage, London**;" Code, **5th Edition A.B.C.**; telephone number, **12807 Central.** A statement of the objects and work of the Branch will be found on p. 149.

Attention is directed to the Sample Room at the above address, the latest additions to which are the following:—

Samples.	Reference in "Board of Trade Journal." Date.	Page.
Rope and twine manufactured from the Caranday Palm in Argentina...	16th July, 1908	136
Shelf Hardware of American make sold in Canada ...	" " "	107
Polishing Grass from Antung	" " "	139
Antimony refined at Wuchow	2nd " "	35
Cigar and Cigarette Holders made from Coquilho Nuts grown in Brazil	25th June, "	662
Bolts and Wire-cutting Pincers of German make, sold in Yokohama	4th " "	491
Ramie (various)	" " "	514
	19th March "	592
Native-made Woollens from Konia...	28th May, "	467
Paper Pulp manufactured in Trinidad from "Megass" ...	" " "	471
Coffee produced in Angola	21st " "	419
Artificial Silk manufactured at Padua	16th April, "	148
Raw Cotton from the Jordan Valley	9th " "	100
Black Sand from the United States...	2nd " "	39
Tannin Extract from Natal-grown Wattle Bark	" " "	44
Miner's Lamp of German make, used in Brazil	26th Mar., "	618
Cotton Goods of German and Italian manufacture sold in Palestine	19th " "	592
Raw Silk from Buenos Aires	" " "	593
Petroleum from Commodoro Rivadavia	" " "	591
Rubber from Bogotá	12th " "	546
Silk produced at Hochou	5th " "	499
Kapok from Loanda	20th Feb., "	395
Cotton from Tunis	6th " "	297

Trade Enquiry Offices have been established at 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., by the Governments of India, the Dominion of Canada and Queensland. Statements of the objects and work of these Offices will be found on pp. 149-50.

OPENINGS FOR BRITISH TRADE.

BRITISH INDIA.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS: INDIA OFFICE.

Railway Material.

The Secretary of State for India in Council is prepared to receive tenders for the supply of (1) rails and fishplates, (2) bearing plates, (3) fishbolts, (4) coachscrews, and (5) dog spikes. The conditions of contract may be obtained on application to the Director General of Stores,

Openings for British Trade.

BRITISH INDIA—*continued.*

India Office, Whitehall, S.W., and tenders are to be delivered at that office by two p.m. on the 28th July. Copies of the conditions may be inspected at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.

Bridgework.

The Board of Directors of the Burma Railways Company, Limited, are prepared to receive tenders for the supply of bridgework. Specifications and forms of tender can be obtained at the Company's offices, 199, Gresham House, E.C. For each specification a fee of 20*s.* will be charged, which will not be returned. Tenders, enclosed in sealed envelopes, and marked "Tender for Bridgework" must be delivered not later than noon on the 22nd July. The Directors do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

Structural Steel and Ironwork.

The East Indian Railway Company are prepared to receive tenders for the supply and delivery of structural steel and ironwork, in accordance with the specification to be seen at the Company's Offices, Nicholas Lane, London, E.C. For each specification a fee of 21*s.* is charged, which will not be returned. Tenders are to be sent to the Secretary at the above address, marked "Tender for Structural Work," not later than noon on the 29th July. The Company reserve the right to divide the order and to decline any tender without assigning a reason, and do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

Steel Water Reservoir.

The "Indian and Eastern Engineer" for June notifies that the Commissioners of the Corporation of Calcutta are prepared to receive tenders from responsible firms for the construction and erection at Calcutta of a raised steel tank or reservoir to hold 9 million gallons of water. Detailed plans, together with copies of the specification and form of agreement, may be obtained at the office of the "Indian and Eastern Engineer," 50, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C., on payment of 20*l.*, which will be returned on receipt of a *bonâ fide* tender.

Tenders are to be submitted in duplicate, the first or original of which must leave not later than by the registered mail leaving London on Friday, 16th October, 1908, in order that tenders may be opened at Calcutta on Wednesday, the 4th November, when tenders received will be opened by the Vice-Chairman at 3 p.m. The duplicate copy of the tender should be despatched not later than by the mail leaving London on Friday, 23rd October, 1908, and will be used if the original is lost. Tenders, which may be made in sterling or rupees, are to be enclosed in sealed covers, addressed to the Vice-Chairman, Corporation of Calcutta, and en-

Openings for British Trade.

BRITISH INDIA—*continued.*

dorsed "Tender for Raised Steel Reservoir." The successful contractor will be required to find security approved by the Corporation to the extent of 10,000*l.* for due performance of the work. Tenderers must undertake not to withdraw their tender within a period of less than three months, dating from the last date for the receipt of tenders in Calcutta. It is not expected that the foundation for the tank will be completed and ready for superstructure before the 1st July, 1909, and contractors must arrange accordingly. The Commissioners do not undertake to accept the lowest or any tender.

Steel Water Pipes.

The "Indian and Eastern Engineer" also announces that the Commissioners of the Corporation of Calcutta are prepared to receive tenders for the supply and laying complete of a system of 6 ft. and 5 ft. steel mains, together with branches, sluice valves, washouts, &c. The specification and form of agreement may be had on application to the office of the "Indian and Eastern Engineer," 50, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C., on payment of 5*l.* 5*s.*, which will be returned on receipt of a *bonâ fide* tender. Tenders are to be submitted in duplicate and the original must be forwarded by the registered mail leaving London on Friday, 9th October, in order that tenders may be opened at Calcutta on Thursday, the 29th October, 1908, when all tenders received will be opened at 3 p.m. by the Vice-Chairman. The duplicate copy of the tender should be despatched by the mail leaving London on Friday, 16th October, and will be used in the event of the original being lost. Tenders, which may be made in sterling or rupees, are to be enclosed in sealed covers addressed to the Vice-Chairman, Corporation of Calcutta, and endorsed "Tender for Steel Pipes and Laying." The successful tenderer will be required to find security approved by the Corporation to the extent of 5,000*l.* for the due performance of the work. Tenderers must undertake not to withdraw their tenders within a period of three months dating from the day the tenders are opened in Calcutta. The Commissioners do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

CANADA.

Commercial Enquiries.

The following commercial enquiries have been received at the **Canadian Government Offices, 17, Victoria Street, London, S.W.**, whence further information regarding them may be obtained:—

HOME ENQUIRIES.

A London firm report a large demand in South Africa for **Canadian hard spring wheat flour** at a medium figure for mixing

Openings for British Trade.

CANADA—*continued.*

with the Australian soft flour, and would like to get into communication with a first-class firm of Canadian shippers.

A Glasgow firm desire to increase their business connection in Canada for **English hams and bacon** of fine quality, and would like to hear from persons in Canada willing to undertake their representation.

A London firm desire to get into touch with a Canadian shipper of **fruit and produce.**

A Glasgow firm desire to hear from Canadian exporters of **asbestos and other materials, raw products, pulp, &c.**

A Lancashire firm desire to get into touch with Canadian buyers of general **chemicals**, or with agents willing to represent them for such goods.

A London firm manufacturing **asbestos coverings** and other **asbestos goods** desire to get into touch with Canadian buyers.

An important London firm of paper makers' agents are desirous of getting into touch with any manufacturers in Canada having **pulp** to dispose of.

CANADIAN ENQUIRIES.

Enquiry has been received from a Montreal firm for the names of United Kingdom importers of **mica.**

A firm of manufacturing chemists in Montreal wish to get into touch with manufacturers of **proprietary specialities**, and also general **chemicals**, who may desire representation in Canada.

Note.—For further information regarding any of the above, application should be made to the High Commissioner for Canada, 17, Victoria Street, S.W.

* * * *

The following commercial enquiries have been received at the **Canadian Government City Trade Branch, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.,** whence further information regarding them may be obtained :—

HOME ENQUIRIES.

A London firm manufacturing medium and high class **furs** and also **feather boas** wish to appoint a Canadian resident agent.

A Scotch firm ask for the addresses of Canadian makers of **egg cases and fillers.**

A company manufacturing **motor wagons** and other commercial vehicles are prepared to appoint a resident agent in Eastern Canada.

CANADIAN ENQUIRIES.

A manufacturers' agent in Toronto is willing to undertake additional agencies in goods sold to the **building** and affiliated trades ; also in specialities.

Openings for British Trade.

CANADA—*continued.*

A Canadian mine owner who is producing **talc** of a high grade asks to be placed in correspondence with United Kingdom importers.

A Winnipeg company are prepared to represent, on commission, United Kingdom producers of **bluestone (sulphate of copper), sulphur** and **grocers' sundries.**

A Montreal firm of mechanical engineers state that they can advantageously represent United Kingdom manufacturers of **contractors' machinery, stone-crushing plants, concrete mixers, brick machines** and **railway supplies.**

A Toronto correspondent seeks sole agencies in the Dominion in **cutlery, edge tools, guns, revolvers and ammunition, builders' hardware, &c.**

A Montreal house report an opening for **soft soaps,** and invite correspondence from United Kingdom makers seeking business in Canada.

Note.—For further information regarding any of the above, application should be made to the Canadian Government City Trade Branch, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.

American Shelf Hardware in favour: Samples on view.

Certain samples (sixty-nine in all) of American shelf hardware sold in Canada, with particulars of price, have been received from Mr. R. Grigg, the Special Commissioner appointed by the Advisory Committee to the Board of Trade on Commercial Intelligence to inquire into and report upon the conditions and prospects of British trade in Canada (see "Board of Trade Journal" of 16th January last, pp. 153-4). The samples may be inspected by British manufacturers interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.

Telegraph Material.

The London Representative of the Australian Commonwealth (Captain R. Muirhead Collins, C.M.G.) notifies that he has received tender forms, specifications, &c., relating to the following contracts, tenders for which will be received at the offices of the Deputy Postmaster-Generals named up to mid-day on the days specified:—

24th August.—Supply to the Deputy Postmaster-General, Brisbane, of ironwork, insulators and iron, copper and covered wires and accessories.

26th August.—Supply to the Deputy Postmaster-General, Adelaide, of 9 tons of hard-drawn copper wire, 3,000 copper tapes, 3,000 copper binders and 3,000 porcelain insulators.

Openings for British Trade.

Tender forms, specifications, &c., may be obtained at the Commonwealth Offices in London, 72, Victoria Street, S.W., where also preliminary deposits on tenders may be paid. Copies may be examined by British makers on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Manufacture of Patented Machinery, &c., in the United Kingdom for South African Firms.

A firm of mechanical engineers in Worcester (England) are prepared to undertake, on royalty, the manufacture of patented articles, such as wood and metal working machinery, motor car parts, agricultural machinery, pumps, valves, &c., and desire to hear from South African patentees on the subject. They would attend to the sales also if desired.

Communications in connection with this matter should be addressed to the Secretary, Chamber of Commerce, Worcester, England.

SOUTHERN NIGERIA.

Coal.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade are notified by the Acting Colonial Secretary at Lagos that tenders are invited for the supply to the Government of Southern Nigeria for the period from the 1st January, 1909, to the 31st December, 1909, of not less than 17,000 tons of coal to be delivered at the following ports:—

Ports of delivery.	Approximate annual requirements.
Lagos	... from 11,000 to 14,100 tons.
Forcados	„ 1,000 „ 1,500 „
Warri	„ 400 „ 600 „
Sapele	„ 400 „ 600 „
Akassa	„ 800 „ 1,000 „
Brass	„ 200 „ 300 „
Bonny	„ 400 „ 500 „
Degema	„ 300 „ 400 „
Opobo	„ 200 „ 300 „
Calabar	„ 2,500 „ 3,500 „
Total	„ 17,200 „ 22,800 „

Alternative tenders for the supply of coal annually, not less than 17,000 tons and up to 25,000 tons if required, for three or five years will receive consideration.

Tenders should specify the rate for each port. Supplies for each port must be delivered as required, but arrangements can be made for the delivery at one time of not less than 750 tons at Lagos and 100 tons at any other port. It is estimated that at least eight separate shipments will be necessary owing to the small size of

Openings for British Trade.

vessel that must be used to cross the Lagos Bar. Dredging operations on Lagos Bar have resulted in the Bar draught being increased to 13 feet, and there is every reason to believe that vessels drawing more than this will be able to enter the harbour in 1909.

The coal must be of the best quality double-screened South Wales steam coal (Admiralty standard), fresh wrought, dry, and free from dust on delivery.

The contractor will be required to deposit with the Colonial Secretary, Lagos, a sample of the coal to be supplied under the contract in case of any dispute as to the quality of the coal supplied. The sample must be passed by an Admiralty contractor.

Tenders will be received until noon on the 15th September, 1908. They should be addressed to the Colonial Secretary, Lagos, in sealed envelopes marked "Tender for Coal."

Any further details can be obtained from the Colonial Secretary, Lagos. If enquiries are made by telegraph the A.B.C. Code, 5th Edition, should be used, and messages addressed to "Secretary, Lagos."

A copy of the advertisement (showing conditions of tender, &c.) may be seen at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

EGYPT.

Wool Yarn, Blue Cloth, Cotton Canvas, Webbing, &c.

The London Agent of the Egyptian War Office (Lieut.-Col. J. H. Western, R.E., C.M.G.) notifies that the Department are calling for tenders for the supply of (1) wool yarn and blue cloth; (2) cotton canvas, circular webbing, felt and hides. All particulars may be obtained from Lieut.-Col. Western, Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, S.W., to whom tenders are to be sent by the 4th August.

Olive Oil.

The Egyptian "Journal Officiel" of the 6th July announces a call for tenders by the Ministry of Finance for the supply of 7,390 okes 272 drachms of pure olive oil, in accordance with conditions that may be inspected at the office of the Ministry, at Cairo, or at the Government-house at Alexandria. Offers must be made upon stamped paper of 30 millièmes* and must reach the above-named Ministry by noon on the 15th August.

Oke = 2·75 lbs. avoirdupois.

Steam Launch.

The "Journal Officiel" also notifies that tenders will be received at the Office of Asyut Barrage Circle up to 10 a.m. on the 1st September for the supply of a steam launch. Contractors should send in their own designs, and tender in a lump sum. The specification and drawings

* May be obtained from Lieut.-Col. J. H. Western, R.E., C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W.

Openings for British Trade.

EGYPT—*continued.*

may be consulted at the offices of the Inspector-General of Irrigation for Upper Egypt, Cairo, and at the offices of the Inspector of Irrigation, Asyut Barrage Circle, Asyut. Tenders should be addressed to the latter; they must be upon stamped paper* and enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing the inscription "Tender for supply of a Steam Launch."

Water Works.

The "Journal" further announces a call for tenders by the Ministry of the Interior for the construction of water supply works in the town of Benha. The works required include a pumping station, with tower and reservoir, the construction of wells, installation of apparatus and machinery, laying of conduits, &c., &c. Plans and specifications may be consulted at the office of the Ministry of the Interior. Tenders must be made upon stamped paper* and enclosed in sealed envelopes marked "Tender for Water Supply Works at Benha." They should be addressed to H.E. the Under Secretary of State, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, and will be received up to noon on the 27th August. Tenders must be guaranteed by a deposit equal to 10 per cent. of the amount of the offer.

RUSSIA.

Agricultural Machinery and Implements.

The Acting British Consul at St. Petersburg (Mr. C. H. Mackie), reporting on the agricultural machinery trade in Russia, states that the provincial associations for the co-operative purchase and sale of agricultural machinery and implements are continuing to extend their operations, and that German manufacturers and British firms, the latter to a less degree, have been able to secure a fair amount of business. The total amount of such machinery and implements imported into Russia in 1907 from all countries amounted to 1,835,368*l.*, an increase of 197,158*l.* over that of 1906. The imports from Germany during the same period amounted to 672,637*l.*, or over one-third of the whole trade, and were, moreover, in excess of the imports from that country in 1906 by 208,532*l.* The imports from the United Kingdom amounted to 240,947*l.*, an increase over those of the previous year of 63,684*l.* It is gratifying to see from the latter figures, remarks Mr. Mackie, that British manufacturers of this class of machinery have not neglected the Russian market, and it is to be hoped that with increased activity they will further extend their business, as the superiority of British makes is fully appreciated throughout that country. It should be borne in mind by British manufacturers that many kinds of agricultural machinery are exempt from import duty in Russia.

* May be obtained from Lieut.-Col. J. H. Western, R.E., C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W.

Openings for British Trade.

BELGIUM.

Electric Lighting.

H.M. Consul-General at Antwerp (Sir C. Hertslet) has forwarded a copy of a specification issued by the Municipal Authorities of that city in connection with a call for tenders for the electric lighting of the new Royers lock at Antwerp.

A deposit of 1,000 francs (about 40*l.*) will be required to qualify any tender.

Tenders, enclosed in sealed registered envelopes, should be addressed to Monsieur le Bourgmestre de la Ville d'Anvers, Hôtel de Ville, Antwerp, by whom they will be received not later than the 27th July.

The specification (*cahier des charges*) may be obtained from the Hôtel de Ville, at a cost of 0·50 franc. A copy may be consulted by British contractors on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

Screw Steamer.

The "Bulletin Commercial" (Brussels) of the 11th July announces that tenders are invited by the Administration de la Marine, and will be opened at 11 a.m. on the 12th August at the Bourse de Commerce (Salle de l' Union Syndicale), at Brussels, for the supply of a screw steamer with steel hull for pilot service at Antwerp, at the estimated cost of 125,000 fr. (about 5,000*l.*). A deposit of 12,500 fr. (about 500*l.*) will be required. The price of the plans is 6·80 fr.

Railway Construction.

The "Bulletin Commercial" also announces that tenders for the following contracts will be opened at the office of the Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer Vicinaux, Rue de la Science 14, Brussels, at 11 a.m. on the days specified:—

29*th July.*—Construction of the Rijmenam-Tremeloo section of the local railway from Malines to Aerschot. Estimated cost, 101,898 fr. (about 4,076*l.*). Deposit, 10,000 fr. (about 400*l.*).

29*th July.*—Construction of the Bruges-Aertrycke section of the Bruges-Leke-Dixmude railway. Estimated cost, 155,222 fr. (about 6,209*l.*). Deposit, 15,000 fr. (about 600*l.*).

19*th August.*—Construction of portions of the local railway between Mons and Quévy. Estimated cost, 119,100 fr. (about 4,764*l.*). Deposit, 12,000 fr. (about 480*l.*).

Tenders should be enclosed in registered envelopes addressed to the Director-General of the "Société," at the address given above; they will be received up to the day preceding that appointed for the adjudication. Plans, specifications, &c., may be consulted at the offices of the "Société," where the specifications (*cahiers des charges*) may be purchased at a cost of 1 fr. in each case.

Openings for British Trade.

SPAIN.

Electric Railway Plant.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of 8th July contains a copy of a notice to the effect that the Dirección General de Obras Públicas of Madrid have authorised D. Julian de la Rosa y Diez to prepare plans for the construction of an electric railway from Valladolid to Toro in the provinces of Zamora and Valladolid.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (BOHEMIA).

Articles in Demand.

See notice on p. 113 for information respecting articles in which British trade in Bohemia might be extended.

BULGARIA.

Water Meters.

The "Bulletin Commercial" (Brussels) of the 11th July states that tenders will be opened on the 13th August by the Municipal Authorities of Sofia, for the supply of 1,735 water-meters, at the estimated cost of 100,000 fr. (about 4,000*l.*). A deposit of 5 per cent. will be required. The specification (*cahier des charges*), in Bulgarian and French, may be obtained from L'Administration Municipale de Sofia on payment of 5 fr.

ROUMANIA.

Water Meters.

The "Revue Commerciale du Levant" states that the Communal Council of Bucharest are considering the question of installing water meters in the private houses of the first and second districts of that city, this measure having been proposed in consequence of wastage of water by the consumers.

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON TRADE RECORDS.

The ninth meeting of this Committee was held at 8, Richmond Terrace, S.W., on the 10th July, Sir Robert Giffen, K.C.B., F.R.S., being in the chair. The other members of the Committee present were Mr. H. Birchenough, C.M.G., Mr. R. F. Crawford, and Mr. G. J. Stanley, C.M.G., with Mr. F. W. Perrett (Secretary).

Evidence was given by Mr. H. Cooke, Mr. T. C. Moore, and Mr. S. Lowe.

BRITISH TRADE ABROAD.

Bohemia.—H.M. Consul at Prague (Capt. A.W.W. Forbes) reports with reference to openings for British trade in Bohemia, that there is considerable room for expansion in sporting requisites, such as those for football, hockey, lawn tennis and golf, also in saddlery and harness, soaps, perfumery, patent drugs, groceries, good typewriting paper, office stationery, cutlery, textiles, &c., not so much in Prague itself as in the other large towns of Bohemia. Recently one of the leading silk mercers and drapers in Prague devoted a considerable portion of his new premises to the sale of Liberty products. The country is rich and prosperous, and its peoples, both Czech and German, the former, of course, being largely in the majority, are favourably disposed towards Englishmen. Most of the textile machinery comes from the United Kingdom, and a section of a spinning mill erected by a great British firm may be seen at work at the Jubilee Exhibition* now being held at Prague (May to October). Capt. Forbes urges English people who may be in Bohemia this year to visit Prague and its Exhibition.

Paraguay.—The following observations on the trade of Paraguay have been received from H.M. Consul at Asuncion (Mr. C. W. G. Gosling):—

The conditions of trade and commerce in Paraguay have for various causes been in a very unsettled condition during 1907. During 1904–6 the country suffered first from drought and then from floods and the invasion of locusts; there has been a general scarcity of money, prices for the ordinary commodities of life have ruled high, and the exchange has fluctuated between 1,000 and 1,200 per cent., finally reaching 1,400 per cent. at the close of 1907.

According to official figures just published the total imports during the four last years were as follows:—

	Dol. (gold).	£
1904	3,565,731	713,146
1905	4,678,514	935,703
1906	6,267,194	1,253,439
1907	7,861,273	1,372,255

No statistics as to the description and values of the goods imported from Europe are obtainable, and it may be computed that the increase in the trade figures is due in the first place to a stricter surveillance in the Customs house, and secondly, to a notable growth in the demand for luxuries of all kinds. The chief imports from the United Kingdom are textiles (of which the greater part are cottons), groceries and tinned provisions, hardware, spirits, drugs and haberdashery. The total of these articles go to make up fully one-half, if not more, of the whole of the imports taken together.

Germany, the second country in point of importance in its trade with Paraguay, sends rice, groceries, hardware and "machetes," and

* See "Board of Trade Journal" of 25th June, p. 635.

British Trade Abroad.

is the chief supplier of stationery, guns, rifles and revolvers, powder and shot, glass, china, earthenware, ironmongery, bits and spurs, furniture, musical instruments, saddlery and harness.

The imports from France consist chiefly of wines and spirits, sugar, perfumery, leather, groceries and tinned provisions; those from Italy are made up of wines and spirits, tinned provisions and groceries. The United States of America send a small amount of agricultural machinery, machetes, axes and kerosene; the trade in American dressed hides and leather for boots and shoes has of late shown a tendency to increase. Paraguayan buyers are on the whole very conservative and the market varies but little, so that there is but little direct competition with British goods, the various countries shipping in the main articles of different classes.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND ITALY RESPECTING COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS' SAMPLES.*

An Agreement has recently been concluded between H.M. Government and the Government of Italy with a view to facilitating the clearance through their respective Customs Departments of samples of dutiable goods brought into the territories of one of them by commercial travellers of the other, to be used as models or patterns for the purpose of obtaining orders, and not for sale. By the terms of the Agreement, such articles will be admitted free of duty, subject to the following formalities requisite to ensure their being re-exported or placed in bond:—

1. The officers of Customs at any port or place at which the patterns or samples may be imported shall ascertain the amount of duty chargeable thereon, which amount must either be deposited by the commercial traveller or ample security must be given for it.

2. For the purpose of identification, the marks, stamps or seals placed upon such samples by the Customs Authorities of one of the Contracting Parties shall be recognised as sufficient by those of the other Party. Should the samples, however, arrive without bearing the above-mentioned marks of identity, or should the marks not appear sufficient to the administration interested, a supplementary mark may be affixed to such samples, if considered desirable, in such a way as not to injure them and without charge.

3. A permit or certificate shall be given to the importer, which shall contain:—(*a*) A list of the patterns or samples imported, specifying the nature of the goods and such marks as may be

* An article on facilities for Customs clearance of commercial travellers' samples in Belgium, Switzerland, France and Germany was published in the "Board or Trade Journal" of 18th June, pp. 590-91.

Agreement between the United Kingdom and Italy respecting Commercial Travellers' Samples.

proper for the purpose of identification; (*b*) a statement of the duty chargeable on the patterns or samples, as also whether the amount was deposited in money or whether security was given for it; (*c*) a statement relative to the manner in which the patterns or samples were marked; (*d*) the appointment of a period, which at the utmost must not exceed 12 months, at the expiration of which, unless it is proved that the patterns or samples have been previously re-exported or placed in bond, the amount of duty deposited will be carried to the public account, or the amount recovered under the security given.

4. Patterns or samples may also be re-exported through any other Custom house than the one through which they were imported.

5. If before the expiration of the appointed time (3 *d*) the patterns or samples should be presented at the Custom house of any port or place for the purpose of re-exportation or being placed in bond, the officers at such port or place must satisfy themselves by examination whether the articles which are brought to them are the same as those for which the permit of entry was granted. If there are no objections in this respect the officers will certify the re-exportation or deposit in bond, and will refund the duty which had been deposited, or will take the necessary steps for discharging the security.

TRADE OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND BRITISH POSSESSIONS.

The following summary table has been prepared in the Board of Trade, showing the total imports and exports of merchandise of the principal countries for which the particulars can be given up to April, 1908, inclusive, and referring in all cases to the same period, viz., the four months ended April. The corresponding figures for 1907 and 1906 are added for comparison:—

—	Imports (*see* NOTE below). Four Months ended April.			Exports (Domestic) (*see* NOTE below). Four Months ended April.		
	1906.	1907.	1908.	1906.	1907.	1908.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Belgium*	43,279,000	46,052,000	42,701,000	31,043,000	33,397,000	32,330,000
France...	78,305,000	88,312,000	84,905,000	66,905,000	74,671,000	68,736,000
Spain	13,457,000	12,617,000	13,231,000	11,820,000	11,864,000	12,720,000
Austria-Hungary ...	34,804,000	33,679,000	35,155,000	30,913,000	30,396,000	30,432,000
Egypt	7,153,000	8,618,000	8,056,000	9,102,000	10,768,000	8,343,000
United States... ...	89,931,000	106,720,000	72,146,000	123,639,000	137,459,000	133,333,000
Japan	15,475,000	17,829,000	18,426,000	11,671,000	13,100,000	10,864,000
British India... ...	26,275,000	27,214,000	32,287,000	40,094,000	46,770,000	35,242,000
Canada	18,799,000	23,701,000	19,236,000	11,630,000	11,070,000	13,020,000
British S. Africa+ ...	11,482,000	9,609,000	8,820,000	12,673,000	15,769,000	14,475,000
United Kingdom ...	171,227,000	191,961,000	181,127,000	118,229,000	136,284,000	129,973,000

* Value of *principal* articles only. + Including bullion.

Trade of Foreign Countries and British Possessions.

A comparison of the total figures for the five months ended 31st May is possible for four countries, as follows, viz. :—

—	Imports (*see* NOTE). Five Months ended May.			Exports (Domestic) (*see* NOTE). Five Months ended May.		
	1906.	1907.	1908.	1906.	1907.	1908.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Belgium*	54,481,000	60,908,006	56,181,000	38,807,000	42,653,000	41,816,000
France...	96,539,000	108,771,000	103,117,000	84,572,000	92,007,000	86,137,000
United States ...	111,787,000	133,077,000	89,694,000	150,338,000	164,913,000	156,504,000
United Kingdom ...	215,510,000	236,110,000	218,938,000	149,954,000	173,206,000	161,040,000

* Value of *principal* articles only.

NOTE.—In the case of Belgium, France, Austria-Hungary, Egypt, Japan, Canada *and United Kingdom*, the import figures given in the above summaries represent imports for home consumption. In all cases the export figures are intended to represent exports of domestic produce. In most cases, however, they include a certain amount of "nationalised" goods, *i.e.*, goods originally imported for consumption, and which, if dutiable, have been charged with duty, but which are subsequently re-exported.

The latest figures available as regards other countries from which returns are received by the Board of Trade are as follow :—

—	Imports.			Exports (Domestic).		
	1906.	1907.	1908.	1906.	1907.	1908.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Germany (3 months).	not available	102,695,000	104,283,000	not available	79,736,000	80,640,000
Italy (3 months) ...	22,182,000	29,532,000	28,749,000	17,340,000	18,802,000	17,740,000
Mexico* (3 months) ..	6,811,000	6,195,000	5,619,000	7,250,000	6,898,000	5,885,000
Australian Commonwealth* (2 months) .	6,865,000	8,419,000	9,200,000	13,784,000	13,896,000	10,766,000
Switzerland+(3 m'ths)	13,459,000	15,850,000	15,395,000	10,412,000	11,173,000	10,708,000
Russia‡ (1 month).	5,163,000	5,738,000	6,672,000	7,551,000	6,672,000	6,026,000
Russia‡ (2 months)	10,727,000	10,736,000	12,402,000	13,917,000	11,905,000	11,091,000

* Including bullion and specie. + Including bullion.
‡ European, Russo-Finnish and Black Sea Frontiers.

For detailed particulars regarding the trade of the several countries, reference should be made to the "Accounts relating to the Trade and Commerce of certain Foreign Countries and British Possessions, including figures received up to 30th June," to be obtained from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, London, E.C.

BALTIC AND WHITE SEA CONFERENCE.

H.M. Consul at Copenhagen (Mr. L. C. Liddell) has forwarded the following information respecting the Baltic and White Sea Conference, an Association formed in 1905 for the purpose of protecting the interests of shipowners trading in the White Sea and the Baltic :—

"During 1907 two conference meetings were held, one in Copenhagen during the spring and a second at Hamburg in October. The important measures which the conference had in hand, amongst which was the framing of a strike clause acceptable to both charterer and owner, shipper and receiver, were proceeded with and several of them brought to a successful issue. The phosphate charter has, after long and tedious negotiations with shippers and merchants, been finally framed and adopted. The 'Uniform' time charter was thoroughly discussed at the Hamburg conference and a committee appointed, who, with the assistance of the legal adviser of the conference, will put the various clauses agreed upon into proper wording, so that the charter may be brought into existence at the autumn conference. . . .

"Several measures of minor importance, amongst others the arbitration clause in the 'Baltcon' charter, have been passed during the year, but by far the most important feature has been the strike clause negotiations. The basis of a strike clause was laid down at the spring conference in Copenhagen, and in order to come to an amicable understanding with the merchants, shippers and charterers, leading members of these bodies were invited to attend the conference at Hamburg, where most important negotiations were conducted and later continued between representatives of the conference and representatives of the merchants, shippers and charterers. Although up to the present no quite definite result has been arrived at, it seems beyond doubt that the way is being cleared and most of the difficulties removed, so that a final understanding may be effected during the autumn conference. If this be so, the conference may congratulate itself on the successful reform of one of the most important of shipping documents.

"At the Hamburg conference it was decided in future to hold a board of directors' meeting in Copenhagen every year during the early summer for the purpose of arranging all the details for the autumn session, which as previously decided will rotate amongst various countries. In 1908 the autumn conference will be held at Stockholm, probably in the middle of September.

"At the end of August, 1905, the tonnage entered in the conference amounted to 997,000 tons; in 1906 to 2,000,000 tons; and in 1907 to 2,400,000 tons, the number of the members in the same year being 271 and the number of steamers 1,501."

ARGENTINE TRADE IN 1907.

The following information respecting Argentine trade in 1907 and the general economic conditions in that country has been received from H.M. Minister at Buenos Aires:—

Argentina continued to progress steadily during 1907, although business was somewhat less active than in 1906 for various reasons, amongst which may be mentioned: (1) the after effects of the financial breakdown which occurred in November, 1906; (2) the fear lest there had been over-trading induced by prosperity; (3) the partial failure of the last maize crop; and (4) the unsettled condition of the European and North American money markets. Year by year, however, the Republic confirms more surely her economic position in the world. It is estimated from trade returns based upon the results of the first nine months of 1907, that the exports and imports for the entire year should combine to produce a grand total of close upon 120,000,000*l*. The volume of trade has nearly trebled itself in a decade, as is evidenced by the returns for 1898, which amounted to barely 48,000,000*l*. It should also be borne in mind, in considering the growth of Argentina's prosperity, that up to the present she relies almost entirely upon the natural resources of the country, namely, agriculture and cattle and sheep rearing for her export trade, which was for the first nine months of the year under review equal in value to the entire trade of 1898, although it may safely be said that agriculture is still in its infancy, since there are vast fertile regions that have not yet been touched by the plough.

Mineral and industrial products are practically non-existent at present. As to the former, it is possible that the country may have no great future in its mineral resources unless petroleum is found in large quantities, as it is at present hoped. There are a few copper mines being worked, but it is doubtful if more than one or two will prove remunerative. Coal has not been found, and experts seem to agree that the geological formation of the country is such as to preclude the probability of its existence in a serviceable form. Some rich lead pockets have been discovered, but nothing more. Tin of an inferior quality is said to exist in the Province of Catamarca, and manganese has been found in considerable quantities, but not situated in places where it could be worked at a profit. Manufacturing enterprises have not so far given very good results, in spite of the protection given them by the Customs tariff in the hope of fostering their growth. Want of fuel must always impede their progress unless good petroleum is found in sufficient quantities to meet requirements. Sugar cultivation is an acknowledged failure, and can barely exist under fair conditions, even with the assistance of the existing protective duties. Public opinion has been attracted to the abuse, and to the fact that the high price of sugar is maintained for the benefit of a small number of growers, although experience has proved that the commodity cannot be produced in

Argentine Trade in 1907.

the country, unless it is bolstered up by the duty. Powerful influences interested in the business, and the plea that whole provinces would be ruined by the removal of the duty on foreign sugar, may combine to prevent the repeal of the law. The timber trade should have a bright future, as the northern provinces are rich in valuable woods, but there is reason to fear that the rudimentary laws of forestry are sadly neglected and that little or no provision is made to replace felled timber. Deforestation is said to be progressing at an alarming pace. The butter trade appeared at one time destined to prove a successful industry, but its export volume has steadily decreased of late.

Statistics are only available at the time of writing for the first nine months of 1907. They show that the volume of imports for that period amounted to about 40,500,000*l.* as against 39,500,000*l.* in 1906, or a difference in favour of 1907 of about 1,000,000*l.* The value of exports for the same period amounted to about 48,000,000*l.* as against 45,000,000*l.* for the first nine months of 1906, that is to say a balance in favour of 1907 of 3,000,000*l.*, or a total increase of 4,000,000*l.* The United Kingdom heads the list, both as an exporter to Argentina and as an importer of Argentine products, with values amounting, roughly speaking, to 14,000,000*l.* and 8,000,000*l.*, respectively, Germany coming next with 6,500,000*l.* and 5,700,000*l.* Great Britain is also probably the chief importer of the products scheduled under the heading "to order," which amounts to 16,500,000*l.* During the past year imports from Germany have increased by 725,000*l.*, from Great Britain by 560,000*l.*, and from Belgium by 448,000*l.*, whilst there has been a falling off in imports from France, Italy and the United States. The value of Argentine products exported to the United Kingdom, Belgium, and France, show increases of nearly 2,000,000*l.*, 1,000,000*l.*, and 740,000*l.* respectively, while there is a falling off in exports to Africa, the United States, Italy, Spain, and Germany in amounts varying from 490,000*l.* to the first, and 76,000*l.* to the last named.

REGISTRATION OF TRADE MARKS IN JAPAN.

H.M. Commercial Attaché at Yokohama (Mr. E. F. Crowe), writing on the subject of trade-mark registration in Japan, states that English firms, when instructing a Patent Agent to obtain registration for their marks, do not always take care to ascertain whether the goods on which the mark is to be used are in the same class or in different classes. He mentions the case of a firm who applied for the registration of a mark to be used on "typewriting machines, ribbons and carbon paper," the machines being the chief concern. Carbon paper and ribbon were ordered to be cut out of the application by the Patent Bureau, as they belonged to other classes, and a time limit was allowed for a reply. Before a reply was received from the firm, however, the time limit had expired, and meanwhile an Osaka merchant had filed an application for the registration of the same mark for both ribbons and carbon, so that the original firm's fresh application, when received, was rejected. The question arose whether the Osaka merchant's application would have been refused, or cancelled on trial if accepted by mistake, in case the original firm had made their fresh application within the time fixed by the Bureau, and as the Patent Agents seemed uncertain about it, Mr. Crowe applied for a ruling on the point to the Director of the Patent Bureau. His reply was as follows:—

"If A files a single application for registration of a trade-mark "embracing a number of articles which are in different classes, "then the Patent Office orders him, fixing a date, to amend his "application and file a separate application for each class of "articles. In this case Article XXXIV. of the Patent Rules "applies according to Article XVII. of the Trade Mark Rules, and "all the divided applications filed by A within that time will be "deemed as filed on the date of the original application. Conse-"quently, there will be no danger that B's applications for "registration of the identical or similar mark for any of the "articles covered by A's applications, filed within the time granted "to A, will be accepted. And if by mistake B's applications be "accepted, cancellation on trial will follow."

Hence it appears that divided applications filed within the time fixed by the Bureau will be deemed as filed on the date of the original application. Mr. Crowe urges British manufacturers and merchants to study the Japanese trade-marks classification before applying for registration, and to lose no time in making a fresh application should a mistake occur in their original one.

FOREIGN TRADE AND SHIPPING OF CHINA IN 1907.

The following article on the foreign trade and shipping of China in 1907 is based on the "Abstract of Statistics and Report on the Foreign Trade of China" for 1907, recently published by order of the Inspector-General of the Chinese Imperial Customs, and is in continuation of the article published in the "Board of Trade Journal" of 4th and 11th July, 1907.

[NOTE.—The average value of the Haikwan tael is stated to have been 3*s*. $0\frac{1}{10}$*d*. in 1905, 3*s*. 3½*d*. in 1906, and 3*s*. 3*d*. in 1907. 100 Haikwan taels = 111·40 Shanghai taels, for which exchange quotations are made. Picul = 133⅓ lbs. av.]

I.—General.

The year has been one of slow recovery from the effects of the very general scarcity of 1906, amounting to famine over large areas, of the overtrading of 1905 and 1906, and in Manchuria, of the late war. That the recovery is not more apparent in the year's statistics is, perhaps, mainly due to the high price of food prevailing in every part of the Empire, and the same cause produced many of the local risings which characterised the year, with effects on trade more or less unfortunate. The various crops of 1907, with few exceptions, are reported to have been fair or excellent in almost all the provinces; but the full benefit of the good harvest could only be felt as the year drew to a close. The Yangtze Valley, as a rule so important a contributor to the necessities of distant provinces, was for the greater part of the year shut off as a source of food, and, in turn, laid other districts under contribution; the cost of rice rose and remained high in the provinces accustomed to obtain supplies from Yangtze ports, although large importations from Indo-China, where splendid harvests were reaped, did much to relieve the scarcity. In the import trade caution has been the leading characteristic. Speculation on a future market, the chief error of recent years, has been largely avoided. Operations have been generally of the hand-to-mouth kind, and importers and dealers have been waiting for some movement among the great population upon which everything depends, or some strong and sudden demand which should clear off accumulated stocks and open the way for fresh ventures. This abstinence, called for by the overburdened state of the China market, was aided by the Manchester prices for cotton goods, which remained uninvitingly high during the greater part of the year. The strain on the mercantile community has been continuous and severe, but at least one good result emerges with promise for the future. Stocks were reduced in Shanghai by the end of the year to a figure not greatly exceeding the normal, except in the case of fancy cotton goods, while in Hongkong they were low, and in most other centres almost depleted. Yet the demand was really more active than it seemed to the unfortunate holders of large stocks, which were the legacy from previous years. Taking the quantities of foreign products retained

in the various districts, that is, the net foreign imports—the only gauge of actual consumption—and making due allowance for large importations of railway plant, of flour, and of rice, it will be seen that a very healthy and general demand existed, by which old stocks as well as much of the year's fresh importations were absorbed.

Progress has been made in the settlement and development of Manchuria. Antung, opened in March, with Tatungkow as a subsidiary port, forms an outlet for a region rich in wild silk, beans, and timber. An office of the Maritime Customs was opened at Dairen in July, and the advantage which that port, as a port of free entry, had possessed over Newchwang was thus ended; while it is worthy of remark that the excessive quantities of cotton goods imported at Dairen in anticipation of the opening, and unable to find a market, entailed loss exceeding the duty saved. The opening of Harbin early in the present year completes the circle of Customs stations and will prevent untaxed competition by way of Vladivostock and the Russian frontier. Another grievance has been removed by the equalization of railway rates from Dairen and Newchwang to Kwanchengtze. The ice-free position of Dairen, at the end of the South Manchurian Railway and within easy distance of Japanese and Chinese ports, is sufficient to secure for it a large share of Manchurian business without preferential arrangements; Newchwang, on the other hand, in addition to its long-established connection, has the advantage of being nearer the heart of Manchuria. Regulations were put into effect at the end of the year by which foreign and native goods arriving at Tientsin, Newchwang, Antung, or Dairen, and having paid duty, may be sent on under exemption certificates protecting them from all further taxation to any one of 17 Manchurian trade marts, stretching as far north as Hailar and Aigun.

II.—Foreign Trade.

The net value of the foreign trade was Hk.tls. 680,782,066, showing an increase of 5·27 per cent., as compared with the total of Hk.tls. 646,726,821 in 1906.

(*a*) *Imports.*—The net value of imports, that is, of direct imports less re-exports abroad, was Hk.tls. 416,401,369, the increase over the value in 1906 being Hk.tls. 6,131,287. To explain a total so inconsistent with the undoubtedly depressed condition of trade in general, and with the large decrease in import duties, reference must be made to those items in the list which may be termed exceptional and which do not pay duty. The three items of flour, rice, and railway plant fulfil at once both conditions. The first two, for which the agricultural failures of 1906 and the high price of foodstuffs created an opening, arrived in quantities exceeding the importations of the previous year by

Foreign Trade and Shipping of China in 1907.

the value of Hk.tls. 30,356,000, and the increase in the value of railway plant imported was Hk.tls. 1,364,822, the combined total increase under these three heads being Hk.tls. 31,720,822. Reduced by the deduction of this sum, the total for the year is better understood, and what may be called the ordinary import trade is found to have amounted to about Hk.tls. 385,000,000.

So far as imports are concerned, it is in **cotton goods** only that depression is clearly visible. These manufactures have fallen in total value from Hk.tls. 181,452,953 in 1905 and Hk.tls. 152,727,845 in 1906 to Hk.tls. 118,915,923 in 1907. In 1905 they amounted to 40 per cent. of all imports, in 1906 to 37 per cent., and in 1907 to 27 per cent. The plain descriptions, together with cotton yarn, bear the brunt of the decrease. Plain shirtings, sheetings, T-cloths, drills and jeans give a total of 9,786,025 pieces, as compared with 20,247,223 pieces in 1906, and 27,724,980 pieces in 1905. Further analysis shows that by far the greater part of the decrease fell upon goods of American origin, of which the chief were sheetings and drills, and in which previous over-importation was most marked. The importations of the principal makes of plain goods are comparatively shown as follows:—

—	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.
British	8,109,020	13,548,025	10,785,227	8,224,951
American	3,703,548	12,566,093	8,544,165	578,647
Japanese	607,313	780,580	733,436	840,401
Indian	183,461	650,636	85,003	67,905

The net import of American piece goods in 1907 (578,647 pieces) was nearly equalled by the quantity re-exported abroad (519,598 pieces). Fancy cottons, which include all the cotton fabrics not classed above as plain, were imported to the value of Hk.tls. 32,378,590, showing an increase of Hk.tls. 4,973,982 over the value in 1906, the difference being chiefly due to cotton italians and lastings. Cotton yarn has shared the fall in cottons to the extent of 267,803 piculs. Indian makes fell off by 200,000 piculs, or 10·87 per cent. and Japanese by 90,000 piculs, or 13·76 per cent.; but English yarn rose from 30,701 piculs in 1906 to 33,128 piculs, and the Hongkong product from 6,398 to 25,165 piculs.

In **metals** there was a rise in net value of Hk.tls. 2,652,430, caused by the increase in copper ingots, slabs, and ore (Hk.tls. 3,992,746), tin slabs (Hk.tls. 1,380,863), and 12 other items, the effect of which was modified by the fall in 22 items, including copper bars, rods, &c. (Hk.tls. 447,041), unclassed copper (Hk.tls. 1,315,786), and nail-rod iron (Hk.tls. 403,971).

Foreign Trade and Shipping of China in 1907.

As already stated, the importations of foodstuffs were very large. Of **rice**, 12,765,189 piculs arrived, against 4,686,452 piculs in 1906, the Kwangtung ports alone taking 9,893,232 piculs; and of **flour**, there was a rise from 1,784,681 to 4,414,383 piculs, fairly distributed among the northern and southern ports and Shanghai. The trade in flour, now well started, offers illimitable possibilities, but the foreign product will have to face strong native competition. The Hankow mills alone, on the authority of the Hankow trade report, turn out 33,750,000 piculs a year, the grain from which it is made being grown chiefly in Honan.

Cigarettes of foreign make declined from Hk.tls. 5,846,781, to Hk.tls. 3,714,760. **Aniline dyes** also fell off slightly, but **artificial indigo** increased from 73,848 to 98,442 piculs. **Kerosene oil**, more than making up for the reduced importations of 1906 (128,687,690 gallons), rose to 161,284,355 gallons. The increase (32,596,665 gallons) was covered by American oil, which added over 50 per cent. to the previous year's figures; and of the two other seriously competing oils, the Borneo product fell off by 1,011,004 gallons and the Sumatra increased by 316,259 gallons. The increase in **railway plant and materials** has been referred to. Of the total, valued at Hk.tls. 12,804,628, Dairen took Hk.tls. 3,264,879; Hk.tls. 4,574,142 went to Tientsin; Hk.tls. 566,646 to Chinwangtao; Hk.tls. 1,687,088 to Shanghai; Hk.tls. 831,359 to Hankow; Hk.tls. 694,663 to Mengtsz; and Hk.tls. 684,368 to Canton and Lappa. The import of Indian and Ceylon **tea**, almost the whole of which went to Hankow for mixing purposes, increased by 48,888 piculs. The re-export at Amoy of tea imported from Formosa has again fallen off heavily, and another year like 1907 will see the total extinction of this trade, formerly so flourishing. **Sugar**, with 5,723,871 piculs, declined by 821,871 piculs.

Regarded from the point of view of origin, imports show but little change in the relative position of 1906. The value assigned to Hongkong has increased by Hk.tls. 11,000,000, thereby merely adding so much to an unknown and disturbing factor. All the leading European countries show slightly smaller values; and the United States show a decrease of Hk.tls. 7,532,733, which, in view of the almost complete suspension of their piece goods trade, is surprisingly small, and points to compensating prosperity in other directions. British Indian imports were maintained, and Japanese had a slight set-back, traceable in part to Formosa tea.

(*To be continued.*)

PROPOSED TARIFF CHANGES.

FRANCE.

See notice on p. 141 relative to new regulations respecting the manufacture of tin cases for provisions and their probable application to tin cases containing provisions imported from abroad.

Regulations respecting Composition of Tin Cases containing Provisions.

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS REGULATIONS.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.

Importation of Matches: Allowances for Errors in Packing.

With reference to the notice which was published in last week's issue of the "Board of Trade Journal" respecting the allowances for errors in packing matches imported into the Australian Commonwealth, the Board of Trade have now received, from the Representative of the Commonwealth in London, a copy of a Customs Circular, issued by the Commonwealth Department of Trade and Customs on 8th May last, giving further details respecting the percentages that may be conceded over or under the contents printed or stamped on boxes of matches imported into the Commonwealth, under item 79 E of the Tariff, as follows:—

WAX MATCHES.

Boxes marked to contain 100 or a less number...	6 per cent.
Viz.—Ordinary plaids (40 to 45) not more than	3 matches.
„ flats (80) „ „	5 „
„ large plaids (94) „ „	6 „
Tins or boxes containing over 100, but under 200.	4 per cent.
Viz.—Tins (150)	6 matches.
Tins and boxes containing 200 and over, but not exceeding 400	3 per cent.
Tins and boxes containing over 400 matches ...	2 per cent.
Viz.—Tins marked to contain 600, not more than	12 matches.

SAFETY MATCHES (WOOD).

Boxes marked to contain not more than 100 matches.	10 per cent.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

ST. LUCIA.

Removal of Prohibition of Importation of Cattle from Grenada and Guadeloupe.

The Board of Trade have received from the Administrator of St. Lucia copies of Government Notices, dated 8th June, 1907, notifying the removal of the prohibition of the importation of cattle from Grenada and Guadeloupe into the Colony of St. Lucia.

RUSSIA.

Duty-free Re-admission of Glass Receptacles used in the Exportation of Russian Goods.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of information to the effect that the Russian Customs Department has recently issued a Circular notifying that white or coloured glassware in which Russian goods are exported will be re-admitted into Russia free of Customs duty, provided that the regulations of 26th July, 1884, relating to the duty-free re-admission of packing materials, are complied with.

FINLAND.

Customs Treatment of Maize and Synthetic Indigo.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of copy of a despatch from H.M. Consul at Helsingfors, reporting that, by Decree of the Finnish Senate, maize or Indian corn will continue to be admitted free of duty into the Grand Duchy of Finland until the 1st June, 1909.

The despatch also states that the Finnish Senate has fixed the duty to be levied on synthetic indigo at 58·50 Finnish marks per 100 kilogs. (about 1*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.* per cwt.).

Tariff Classification of Electric Tramcars.

The Board of Trade have also received, through the same channel, a copy of a further despatch from H.M. Consul at Helsingfors, reporting that the Finnish Customs Department has decided that imported electric tramcars shall be dutiable as follows :—

	Rate of duty.		English equivalent.		
		Finnish marks.	£	s.	d.
Ready mounted, on axles and wheels, with electric motors attached	Each ...	800·00	Each 32	0	0
N.B.—The motor, which is dutiable separately, pays at the rate of	100 kilogs.	14·70	Cwt. 0	6	0
Ready mounted on axles and wheels, but without motors	Each ...	800·00	Each 32	0	0
With wheels and axles, and electric motors separate	Dutiable as those with motor attached.				

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

GERMANY.

Importation of Casein, Japanese Fans, and Gilded Tombac Plates, under "Improvement Trade" Conditions.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of translations of three decisions of the Bundesrat, dated the 11th and 29th May, in virtue of which the following articles may be imported or re-imported free of duty into Germany under the conditions governing the "improvement trade":—

Casein of foreign origin (Tariff No. 373) for the production of galalith in leaves, blocks, sheets, tubes or rods (Tariff No. 639).

Japanese fans of cane and paper (Tariff Nos. 532 and 946), which are to have names or dedications printed on them or printed strips of paper stuck on to them.

Home-made gilded tombac plates (Tariff No. 881), from which centre bands for watch cases (Tariff No. 884) are to be produced in Switzerland.

NORWAY.

Tariff Modifications.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of information to the effect that certain modifications of the Norwegian Customs Tariff, as shown in the subjoined statement, came into force on 1st July:—

[NOTE.—Additions to the text of the Tariff are indicated by italic type.]

Tariff No.	Articles.	Former Rate of Duty.	Present Rate of Duty.
	Druggists' wares not dutiable under some other heading of the Tariff:	Kr. öre.	Kr. öre.
12	(*b*) Other than those containing alcohol ... ... NOTE.—*Disinfectants that are not included under "Druggists' wares" may be granted exemption from import duty by the Customs Department.*	Free.	[No change.]
	Cotton and cotton manufactures:		
—	(14*a*) Bobbinet and tulle (except stiffened tulle)	Kilog. 6·00	Kilog. 4·00
	Fruits and berries:		
	(1) Fresh:		
157	(*c*) Bananas	„ 0·05	„ 0·02
	(2) Dried:		
164	(*d*) Raisins *and bananas* ...	„ 0·08* / „ 0·15†	„ 0·08
—	(5) *Fruits preserved in other ways than those mentioned in* (3) *and* (4)‡	„ 0·75	„ 0·40

* Raisins. † Bananas (under Tariff No. 161).

‡ *i.e.*, other than those salted or pickled in vinegar, and those in sugar, candied, or preserved in spirits.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

NORWAY—*continued.*

Tariff No.	Articles.	Former Rate of Duty.	Present Rate of Duty.
	Flax, hemp, Manilla hemp, jute, and similar textile materials, and manufactures thereof :	Kr. öre.	Kr. öre.
—	15 (*b*). Bobbinet and tulle ...	Kilog. 6·00	Kilog. 4·00
	NOTE TO No. 394.—*Machine belts and transmission belts may be admitted free of duty by the Customs Department if it is proved that similar articles are not manufactured in Norway.*		
	Metal manufactures :		
	A. Of various metals :		
410	(8). Hooks and eyes (including all kinds of eyelets for laces, *even with coating of other materials*), knitting needles, &c., &c.	„ 0·50	[No change.]
	C. Of iron :		
425	(1) Steel, bar, bolt and hoop iron, bolts and switches for rail and tramway carriages, cross-pieces, rails *and sleepers*	Free.	„
438	(13) Copying presses, galley-stoves, &c., &c.,* *also parts of these articles, so far as they are not specially mentioned...*	Kilog. 0·05	„
442	(17) Baths, framework and roofing for buildings &c., &c.,* *also parts of these articles, so far as they are not specially mentioned*	„ 0·03	„
	(24) Iron manufactures not specially mentioned.		
456	(*d*) Other	„ 0·15	„
	NOTE.—*The Customs Department may allow heavy and coarse wares that would come under the above heading to pay duty at a lower rate than the above.*		
	F. Of zinc :		
	(3) In other manufactures ;†		
472	(*b*) Nickelled, *including door handles of zinc, all kinds, combined or not with other materials*	„ 0·80	„
	Oils :		
	(1) Fatty		
498	(*a*) Olive oil	„ 0·04	Kilog. 0·01

* No change in the articles included under this Tariff No.

† *i.e.*, Other than plates, bolts, bars, pipes, nails, and wire.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

NORWAY—*continued.*

Tariff No.	Articles.	Former Rate of Duty.	Present Rate of Duty.
	Skins and hides :	Kr. öre.	Kr. öre.
	B. Without the hair :		
	II. Other :		
	NOTE. 2.—*Belly, leg, head and neck pieces, of undyed, not clean-cut pressed leather, are classified under B. II.* (*b*) 1 (*Tariff No.* 594),* *without regard to the weight of the pieces.*		
	Stone and manufactures thereof :		
624	(6) Cement	100 kilogs. 0·50	100 kilogs. 0·30
	Straw and baulm :		
	(2) Manufactured :		
637	(*e*) Floor matting and other [similar coarse]† plaitings ; also bottle sheaths	Kilog. 0·20	[No change.]
638	(*g*) Other straw manufactures‡	,, 0·50	,,
	Note 2 after Tariff No. 721 is to read as follows :		
	Tissues of wool (except hosiery, embroidered lengths, and embroidered transparent or open-work goods that come under No. 719 and that are not woven in patterns, figures, stripes or checks), if sewn, embroidered or otherwise ornamented, shall pay duty as wearing apparel.		

* Duty, 50 öre per kilog.

† Words in square brackets to be deleted.

‡ Tariff No. 638 previously read—"Plaitings other than the foregoing, borders and other manufactures of straw."

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Customs Decisions.

The following is the substance of some recent Decisions affecting the classification of various articles under the Austro-Hungarian Customs Tariff, which have been forwarded to the Board of Trade through the Foreign Office :—

Articles.	Tariff No. under which dutiable.	Rate of Duty.
		Kronen.
Mixture of sesame oil with ground-nut oil ... [*Note.*—Oils specified in Tariff No. 104*c*, viz., maize, poppy-seed, sesame, ground-nut, beech-nut and sunflower oils, in casks, leather bags and bladders, are dutiable at the "conventional" rate of 15 kr. per 100 kilogs., even if they are mixed together.]	104*c*	100 kilogs. 15·00
Driving belt laces.—Greased leather, 7 mm. broad and 2 mm. thick, cut into strap form, tapered off at one end, but not hardened ...	344*d*	,, 75·00

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY—*continued.*

Articles.	Tariff No. under which dutiable.	Rate of Duty.	
			Kronen.
Regulating hooks ("*Fangnadeln*") of iron wire, 0·85 mm. thick, for winding-machines ...	466*a* 2	100 kilogs.	30·00
Machines for the manufacture of straw rope for agricultural, packing and other purposes; weighing each from 200 to 1,000 kilogs ...	538*b* 2	,,	22·00
Perforated facing bricks ... ... [*Note.*—Facing bricks are only dutiable under No. 411*b* 4 of the Tariff at the rate of 0·06 kr. per 100 kilogs. when they are not perforated or in special shapes.]	411*b* 2	,,	0·18
Parts of manometers	574	Kilog.	1·50
Gloves of half-silk, tamboured with silk ...	274/255	100 kilogs. + 40 per cent.	1,000·00
Linerusta wares.—Photograph frames covered on the upper side with linerusta	339*c* 2*β*	100 kilogs.	165·00
Mouse and rat traps, consisting of a spiral spring of coppered wire mounted on a stand of wood or iron—			
The wire being 2 mm. or less thick ...	471*d*	,,	120·00
,, ,, over 2 mm. thick	471*c* 2	,,	60·00
Boilers (cooking apparatus) of common metal for cooking food on a large scale, *e.g.*, in hospitals	526*c* 2	,,	32·00
Crank-shafts (*Kurbelwellen*)	528*a*	,,	40·00
Spoke-nipples of brass, for the manufacture of motor cycles	552	,,	180·00
Spokes of iron wire 4 mm. thick, for the manufacture of motor cycles...	466*a* 1	,,	20·00
Mineral lubricating oil, density under 880 degrees, unmixed with other oils or fats ...	177	100 kilogs. net	11·00
Consumption duty, in addition	—	100 kilogs.	13·00
View-cards in several colours, with advertising announcements printed thereon	299*c* 2*β*	,,	65·00
Rubber heels for boots and shoes	311	,,	120·00
Fireproof doors of wood completely covered with tinned iron-plate	445*c*	,,	35·00
Baking-forms of sheet copper with pressed ornamentations	517*b*	,,	100·00

COSTA RICA.

Surcharge on Import Duty in lieu of Consular Invoice Fees.

H.M. Consul at Costa Rica (Mr. F. N. Cox) reports that the fees charged abroad for Costa Rican Consular invoices have been suppressed, but a surcharge is made of 2 per cent. on the amount of import duty levied on merchandise, and is collected by the Customs-house in Costa Rica.

SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT.

HONGKONG.

Regulations for the Control of Vessels in Harbours of Refuge.

The Board of Trade have received from the Colonial Secretary at Hongkong a copy of the following regulations, dated 11th May, 1908, made by the Governor-in-Council under Section 25 (4) of the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1899, for the control of vessels in the harbours of refuge in Causeway Bay and elsewhere in the waters of the colony:—

1. The harbours of refuge are for the purpose of affording shelter to small craft during bad weather, and shall not be used at any other time without the special permission in writing of the harbour master. 2. No vessel, so long as any space remains vacant in a harbour of refuge, shall anchor, secure, or lie in such a position as may obstruct the free access of other vessels to such vacant space. 3. Nothing in these regulations shall prevent any vessel using any recognised pier or landing place, within the limits of a harbour of refuge, for the purpose of landing or embarking cargo or passengers, so long as such vessel shall not remain within such limits longer than is absolutely necessary for such landing or embarking. 4. Any breach of these regulations shall be punishable, on summary conviction, by a penalty not exceeding 100 dols. or by imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for a period not exceeding three months.

RUSSIA.

Proposed Free Harbour at Vladivostok.

The official "Commercial and Industrial Gazette" of St. Petersburg of 22nd June/5th July states that a special Conference has been formed at the Ministry of Commerce to take into consideration the question of the institution at Vladivostok of a free harbour, *i.e*, the severance from the port territory of a certain portion of it, within the limits of which goods imported from abroad should not be subject to the payment of customs duties, should be free from all customs formalities, and, in general, should be considered as not having crossed the frontier. At the same time, from this free harbour goods could be freely exported either abroad, or to ports of the Primorskaia Territory, north of the mouths of the Amur, or, in transit, *viâ* the Primorskaia Territory into Manchuria.

TURKEY.

Hedjaz Railway.

H.M. Consul at Damascus (Mr. G. P. Devey) reports with reference to the Hedjaz Railway (see "Board of Trade Journal" of 26th March last, p. 638), that by the end of 1907 trains could go as far as Bir-Jedid, 1,070 kiloms. from Damascus, the distance completed during

Shipping and Transport.

the year 1907 being 347 kiloms. The total receipts of the railway to the end of 1907 amounted to about 3,000,000*l.*, coming chiefly from subscriptions, various taxes, traffic, agricultural bank's loan, &c., while the expenditure amounted to 2,750,000*l.*, showing a surplus of about 250,000*l.* in reserve. The total distance practically completed for that sum of expenditure, including the 161 kiloms. of the Deraa-Haifa branch, is 1,230 kiloms., allowing as an average 2,235*l.* for each kilom. of railway.

It is hoped that trains will run to Medina on 1st September, the accession anniversary of the Sultan. On 1st September, 1907, the Medain-Salih section ending at El-Ola Station (982nd kilom. from Damascus) and beginning at Tebouk (692nd kilom. from Damascus) was inaugurated at its furthest end in the presence of a commission sent from Constantinople for the purpose.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

Steamship Services.

H.M. Minister at Buenos Aires reports that the number of British ships expected to visit the Port of Rosario in the course of the present year is estimated at 700; this will bring the numbers up to within measurable distance of Buenos Aires, which was entered by 966 British steamers and 33 sailing-ships in 1907. In addition to the increase promised in the Italian service, several new competitors are entering the lists. A Danish line has already inaugurated a service which is intended to handle the produce of the Scandinavian peninsula, although a Swedish line with a Government subvention has also been established, and there is talk of a Norwegian line if the necessary pecuniary assistance is voted by the Storthing. Austria has sent two ships freighted with national products to Buenos Aires in the course of last year, and it is said that a regular service is to be established between Trieste and South America. The Dutch Parliament has voted a subvention for a national line which, it is intended, shall transport a part at least of the growing trade with Belgium and Holland. Nothing more has been heard of the suggested Japanese line, but it is said that Russia contemplates a regular service. Home interests are awaking to the importance of the merchant service to the navy, and a Bill has been prepared for the approval of Congress providing that the river and coastwise trade must be carried under the national flag. The German Hamburg—South-American line, which has a regular service from Buenos Aires down the south coast to Punta Arenas, sails under the Argentine flag. The annual message sent to Congress by the President of the United States has again roused hopes that an American direct line of steamers to South America may become a reality at no distant date.

Shipping and Transport.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC—*continued.*

Port of Bahia Blanca.

H.M. Minister states that Bahia Blanca is destined, on account of its geographical position, deep entrance channel and situation on the Atlantic, to become a most important commercial port. It is situated 420 miles south of Buenos Aires, and is a railway terminus of the Southern and Pacific lines. There is a national military port at Bahia Blanca, having a dry dock, an arsenal, and a line of batteries which is situated on the estuary between the lightship and the town. About 5 miles higher up the estuary than the military port is Ingeniero White, the Southern Railway's mole. It has a depth of 26 feet of water at low tide, and the steel mole can accommodate from ten to eleven ocean-going steamers, single berth. On the west side of the steel mole is a wooden wharf, used solely for loading grain, which can accommodate two steamers. The mole is fitted with the necessary electric cranes and ten conveying bands for loading grain capable of dealing with 1,000 tons of grain each per diem. The railway company have also two pontoon elevators capable of loading grain into steamers at the rate of 150 tons per hour. A new mole with accommodation for eight steamers is in course of construction. About 2 miles higher up the estuary is the Pacific Railway's mole, fitted with electric and steam cranes, and with accommodation at the present moment for six ocean-going steamers. The construction works are all of concrete, and when completed the harbour will have room for twenty steamers or more, with 26 feet of water at low tide. Wheat, wool, and general produce are the chief items of the export trade. Up to the present but little is imported beyond cement and railway materials.

Want of good harbours is a very serious question in considering the economic development of the Argentine Republic. Three of the chief ports are on the River Plate and Parana, and are approached by channels which are too shallow to allow of vessels of deep draught making use of the ports with safety. Bahia Blanca offers all the advantages of a safe harbour on the Atlantic with 26 feet of water at low tide. There can be no doubt that the place must have a great future before it, more especially as it is now served by two of the most important railways in the country.

Conditions governing Railway Concessions.

Writing on the subject of railway concessions, H.M. Minister states that a law was passed last year establishing uniformity in the conditions upon which all future concessions will be granted (see "Board of Trade Journal" of 7th November, 1907, p. 257). One of its main provisions is the free entry of all articles used in construction and working, and the granting of exemptions from all duties and taxation up to the year 1947, in consideration of the payment by the Railway Companies

Shipping and Transport.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC—*continued.*

of a tax of 3 per cent. per annum on their net returns, which shall be determined by recognising as expenses 60 per cent. of the gross receipts. The produce of this tax is to be devoted to the construction of roads and bridges in the districts served by the railways. In other words, the idea of the tax is to improve communications which will increase the business done by the railways while assisting agriculturists. It is optional for existing lines to avail themselves of the benefits of the law; by so doing they forfeit any advantages that they may enjoy in virtue of the terms of their respective concessions. All the large Railway Companies but one have decided to submit to the law.

PARAGUAY.

Custom House Improvements.

H.M. Consul at Asuncion (Mr. C. W. G. Gosling) reports that considerable dissatisfaction has been felt by merchants at the delays, loss and damage to goods and insufficient accommodation at the Custom house during 1907, but that new depôts and warehouses are now in course of construction. He adds that the delays and expense in connection with the shipment of goods from Buenos Ayres to Asuncion will now be obviated by an arrangement made between the Argentine and Paraguayan Governments, whereby dock and depôt charges on goods in transit for Paraguay are abolished. A similar arrangement was made with the Government of Uruguay some two years ago.

CHINA (MANCHURIA).

Rebates in Freight Rates on South Manchuria Railway.

Adverting to the notice on p. 325 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 14th November, 1907, respecting freight rates and regulations on the South Manchuria Railway, H.M. Minister at Peking reports that regulations concerning the allowance of rebates to persons paying above a certain amount of freight annually came into force on this railway on the 1st October, 1907. Rebates do not commence until the amount of freight exceeds 100,000 yen; under 150,000 yen the rebate is 3 per cent. and increases by one-half per cent. on every additional 50,000 yen up to 500,000 yen. When this sum is reached the rebate remains fixed at 7 per cent. H.M. Minister adds that no mention is made in the regulations as regards the nationality of the owner or the origin of the goods carried.

MINERALS, METALS AND MACHINERY.

RUSSIA.

Cement Trade.

The Acting British Consul at St. Petersburg (Mr. C. H. Mackie) reports that a growing decrease is noticeable in the importation into Russia of cement of all kinds, the quantities of Portland, Roman and other cements imported during the year 1907 amounting to 6,306 tons, while the imports in the two preceding years, according to Russian customs returns, were 12,693 tons in 1906 and 14,419 tons in 1905. Cement of native production is said to be of good quality, and is able to satisfy nearly all local requirements, and this may, to a certain extent, account for the falling-off in the imports of this commodity from foreign countries.

ITALY (SICILY).

Sulphur Stocks and Exports.

H.M. Consul at Palermo (Mr. S. J. A. Churchill, M.V.O.) reports that the exports of sulphur* from Sicily during the first quarter of this year amounted to 125,408 metric tons, as compared with 151,067 tons during the first quarter of 1907; the exports during April amounted to 51,286 tons (1907, 44,130 tons), and during May to 30,485 tons (1907, 23,260 tons)—a total of 207,179 tons during the five first months of 1908, against 218,457 tons during the same period of 1907.

The stocks of sulphur on the 1st June last amounted to 320,359 metric tons at Girgenti, 162,270 tons at Licata, 34,951 tons at Catania, 854 tons at Palermo, and 9,364 tons at Termini—a total of 527,798 tons, against 503,559 tons on the 1st June, 1907, and 309,084 tons at the same date in 1906.

ROUMANIA.

Decree regulating Price and Output of Lamp-oil.

H.M. Minister at Bucharest reports the publication in the "Monitor Oficial" of the 11th/24th June of a Royal Decree, fixing the price of lamp-oil for home consumption for the months of July, August, and September at 8·70 francs per 100 kilogs., in accordance with article 7 of the Law of 10th/23rd April last. The Decree also fixes the maximum number of metric tons (amounting to 42,000) to be supplied proportionally by each refinery in the country. All the surplus over and above this 42,000 metric tons will have to be exported, and this naturally at the world's market price. The object of the law, which chiefly affects the Roumanian consumer of lamp-oil—and that to a considerable degree, seeing that the price of lamp-oil has of late been as low as 4 francs—is to encourage the smaller distilleries established in the country, and above all to prevent, by keeping up prices, the Roumanian petroleum industry from being absorbed by the Standard Oil Trust.

* Notices relative to the Sicilian sulphur industry appeared in the "Board of Trade Journal" of the 25th June, p. 656, and in previous issues.

YARNS AND TEXTILES.

FRANCE.

Silk Trade at Lyons.

With reference to the notice on p. 242 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of the 30th January last, respecting the silk trade at Lyons, H.M. Consul there (Mr. E. R. E. Vicars) reports that the condition of the trade, though no longer critical as it was in the worst days of last autumn and winter, has little improved, and depression and timidity seem to be the salient features of the market. As the result of much wild buying of silk at top prices during the boom of last summer, there are still huge stocks of the raw material which the holders cannot unload, and the knowledge of the existence of these stocks has doubtless a depressing effect on the market. The state of the raw silk trade is reflected in the figures of the manufacture of silks in the country, which show a marked falling off as compared with those of the previous year. The statistics of the exports of silks during the first five months of the year, which have recently been published, show a decline in value, as against the corresponding period of 1907, of no less than 1,853,000*l.* This decline is shared by practically every article of the export trade, though ribbons show the heaviest decline of all, amounting to some 737,000*l.* on a total in the first five months of 1907 of 1,400,000*l.*— a fall of nearly 50 per cent.

The figures for silk manufactures (excluding lace, wholly or partly of silk) imported into the United Kingdom from France during the first six months of the year also show a decline in nearly all branches, amounting in all to 194,000*l.*, as compared with the figures for 1907; but the separate figures for June show an improvement in the shape of an actual increase on the 1907 returns—590,766*l.* as against 541,292*l.*, or an increase of 49,474*l.*

With very large crops, both in Europe and the Far-East, the outlook is certainly the reverse of promising.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

Samples of Rope and Twine manufactured from the Caranday Palm.

With reference to the notice on p. 311 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of the 7th May, relative to the establishment of a new industry in the province of Entre Rios for the utilisation of the fibre of the Caranday palm in the manufacture of rope, cordage and twine, H.M. Minister at Buenos Aires has now forwarded specimens of the leaves of the palm in question, of the fibre, and of rope and twine manufactured from it. These samples may be examined in the Sample Room of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

AGRICULTURE.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Corn Prices.

The prices of British corn per quarter of 8 bushels, as received from the inspectors and officers of Excise in the week ended the 11th July, 1908, were as follows :—

Wheat	...	...	...	30*s.*	5*d.*
Barley	...	...	...	24*s.*	4*d.*
Oats	...	...	...	18*s.*	5*d.*

For further particulars see p. 143.

Imports of Agricultural Produce.

A statement is published on p. 144, showing the quantities of the various descriptions of agricultural produce imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 11th July, 1908, as well as of the imports during the corresponding week of 1907.

NATAL.

Crown Land Farms for Allotment.

With reference to the notice on p. 446 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of the 27th February last, respecting land settlement in Natal, the Board of Trade Correspondent at Durban (Mr. A. D. C. Agnew) reports that the "Natal Government Gazette" of the 2nd June contains a list of Crown land farms available for allotment. Full particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, Land Board, Surveyor-General's Offices, Pietermaritzburg, Natal.

The "Gazette" referred to may be consulted by persons interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

Factory for Manufacture of Starch from Sweet Potatoes.

Mr. Agnew also reports that a starch factory has been erected near Durban, and a trial of the machinery, which was imported from Germany and is capable of a daily production of 3 tons of starch from 12 tons of sweet potatoes, has been made with satisfactory results. A quantity of pulp suitable for cattle food is also produced. The sweet potato grows freely in Natal, and it is hoped that it will be increasingly cultivated to keep the factory running steadily. It is said that the return per acre from sweet potatoes is greater than that from maize.

RUSSIA.

Crop Prospects in the Taganrog District.

The British Vice-Consul at Taganrog (Mr. E. Clively) reports as follows respecting the condition of the crops in that district at the end of June :—

Azima wheat and rye have both suffered from severe weather during the winter, and the yield of these cereals will be considerably below the average. Barley is

Agriculture.

looking very well indeed, and the crops will be above the average. Hard wheat promises well. The late rains have much improved the plant, and with fine weather during July a good result may be expected.

ITALY (SICILY).

Wine Production and Export.

H.M. Consul at Palermo (Mr. S. J. A. Churchill, M.V.O.) reports that the general prospects of the production of wine in Sicily are excellent and the output is expected to be much in excess of the demand. At Riposto during June only 5,179 hectolitres of wine were exported, as compared with 36,430 hectolitres during June, 1907. Of the sales during last month only 49 hectolitres were sent abroad to South America and Egypt.

TURKEY.

Silk Cocoon Crop.

H.M. Consul-General at Beirout (Mr. H. A. Cumberbatch, C.M.G.) reports that the silk cocoon crop, in both the Lebanon hills and the plains, has been somewhat of a failure. It is estimated that the deficit in the yield amounts to about 40 per cent. From the Damour, where the best mulberry plantations are and the best cocoons are produced, the yield is estimated at about 2,914 cwt., as compared with 3,886 cwt. during last year. The decrease is attributed partly to the unfavourable weather and partly to bad seed. The prices have ranged from 11*d.* to 1*s.* 2½*d.* per lb.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Decline in Wheat Exports from New York.

H.M. Consul-General at New York (Mr. C. W. Bennett, C.I.E.), in reporting on the large shrinkage which has taken place in the exports of grain from that port, remarks that Canada now appears to be obtaining the great bulk of the grain trade, Montreal having booked since the opening of navigation this year eight million bushels, whilst New York has secured but a little more than two million bushels. The shrinkage in the New York exports is attributed chiefly to the cheap water rate on wheat from Duluth and Fort William to Montreal, as compared with the railway rate to New York *viâ* Buffalo.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (PHILIPPINE ISLANDS).

Projected Agricultural Bank.

With reference to the notice on p. 660 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of the 25th June, reporting the adoption by the Philippine Assembly of a resolution appointing a Committee to study and report upon the feasibility of establishing

Agriculture.

an agricultural bank in the Islands, the Acting British Consul-General at Manila (Mr. H. Horne) has forwarded an extract from the "Cablenews-American" newspaper of the 29th May, stating that the Committee has made its report. The Committee recommends that the Legislature set aside the sum of 1,000,000 pesos for the foundation of the bank, and that the bank be placed under the management of a Board of Directors composed of the Secretary of Finance and Justice, two members appointed by the Assembly, one to be from the Committee on Banks and Corporations and the other from the Committee on Agriculture, a private individual to be appointed by the Commission, and the Insular Treasurer. The bank is to be under the control of the Insular Treasurer and governed by rules to be prepared by the Board of Directors.

Funds are to be loaned solely for the purpose of agriculture and for the payment of such obligations as still exist upon the land in the interests of which the money is borrowed. This money may be expended in wages, in the purchase of machinery, work animals, seeds, fertilisers, farm improvements and irrigation. The amount of the loan is to be not less than 50 pesos nor more than 25,000 pesos, except in the case of municipalities and provinces, and in no case is more than 40 per cent. of its value to be loaned on any property. No loan is to be made for more than 10 years, and the interest is not to exceed 10 per cent. per annum.

The "Cablenews" states, in conclusion, that the Bill for the establishment of the bank was then (29th May) in preparation, and would be ready for introduction into the Assembly in a few days.

Peso = about 2*s.* 0½*d.*

CHINA (MANCHURIA).

Polishing Grass: Sample on View.

The British Vice-Consul at Antung (Mr. W. Russell) has forwarded a sample of a polishing grass which grows very plentifully among the hills north of the Yalu basin. Its commercial value is due to its properties as a means of polishing ivory, bone, wood or soft metals; for ivory polishing it is said to be in much favour amongst the Japanese. The edge of the stalk of this grass can be used as a file, and is, in many cases, a good substitute for emery paper.

The sample may be inspected at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

MISCELLANEOUS.

UNITED KINGDOM.

State of the Labour Market in June.

According to a report in the "Board of Trade Labour Gazette" for July,* based on 6,332 statistical returns, viz., 2,614 returns from trade unions and 3,718 returns from employers (relating to 1,093,599 workpeople employed in coal and iron mining, the cotton, woollen, worsted and other textile trades, the building trades, the boot and shoe and other clothing trades, and the paper and glass trades), besides a large number of returns of a non-statistical character received from employers' associations, trade unions, local correspondents and other sources, employment in June was on the whole not quite so good as in May. It was still affected by the continuance of the dispute in the engineering trade and by the recent dispute in the shipbuilding industry.

As compared with a year ago there was a decline in employment in most of the principal industries.

In the 268 trade unions, with a net membership of 653,327, making returns, 53,766 (or 8·2 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of June, as compared with 7·9 per cent. at the end of May, 1908, and 3·6 per cent. at the end of June, 1907.

Cotton Statistics.

The number of bales of cotton imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 9th July, 1908, was 27,619 (including 355 bales British West Indian and 12 bales British West African), and the number imported during the twenty-eight weeks ended the 9th July was 2,121,843 (including 7,009 bales British West Indian and 5,009 bales British West African). The number of bales exported during the week ended the 9th July was 7,871, and during the twenty-eight weeks, 273,647.

For further details see p. 143.

A return showing the number of bales of cotton imported and exported, forwarded from ports to inland towns, and returned to ports during the month and six months ended 30th June, 1908, will be found on p. 142.

Bankruptcy Statistics.

A statement showing the number of receiving orders and of administration orders under Sec. 125 (Deceased Debtors' Estates) of the Act of 1883 gazetted in England and Wales during the month and six months ending 30th June, 1908, will be found on pp. 145-6.

* For list of principal contents see p. 147.

Miscellaneous.

NATAL.

Whale Fishing: Factory for the Treatment of Whales.

The Board of Trade Correspondent at Durban (Mr. A. D. C. Agnew) reports that two small whaling steamers recently arrived there from Norway, which, after being overhauled, were to start for the whaling grounds about 30 miles distant from the port. A factory is being erected near the harbour entrance at Durban, to which the whales captured will be taken for treatment.

FRANCE.

Regulations respecting Manufacture of Tin Cases for Provisions.

H.M. Ambassador at Paris reports that a circular was recently addressed by the French Minister of the Interior to the Prefects throughout France, instructing them to publish regulations concerning the manufacture of tin cases for provisions, prohibiting the use of tinplate and of inside solder, other than those made with pure tin, and of paint containing lead. The restrictions regarding tinplate and solder are recapitulations of regulations already in force, but that relating to the use of paint containing lead is new. The sale of tin cases not made in conformity with these regulations is prohibited, and H.M. Ambassador remarks that this prohibition will presumably affect the importation of such cases into France; he is informed that instructions in this connection have not yet been issued to the French Customs Authorities, but that they will doubtless be sent in due course.

FRANCE (ALGERIA).

Sale of Cork.

The British Vice-Consul at Bona (Mr. H. Scratchley, M.V.O.) reports that the annual sale by public auction of the corkwood from the State Forests will take place about the third week of September. The quantities to be put up for sale are at present estimated to amount to a total of 7,374 tons, but as the harvest is not yet finished the estimate is subject to correction. The sale will take place at Constantine at the Prefecture. Mr. Scratchley states that he will be pleased to forward details of the lots for sale to any intending British purchasers desiring the same. The wood may be examined during the months of August and September.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

Cotton Returns.—June, 1908.

Return of the **Number** of **Bales** of **Cotton Imported** and **Exported**, **Forwarded** from **Ports** to **Inland Towns**, and **Returned** to **Ports** during the Month and Six Months ended 30th June, 1908, compared with the corresponding Periods of the Year 1907.

	Month of June.		Six Months ending 30th June.	
	1908.	*1907.*	1908.	*1907.*
	Imports.*			
American	107,126	*109,216*	1,555,751	*2,254,978*
Brazilian	344	*12,090*	15,286	*142,771*
East Indian	11,044	*23,372*	66,019§	*109,634*
Egyptian	35,461	*23,356*	264,789	*293,288*
Miscellaneous	11,136†	*15,726*	48,590‡	*75,923*
Total	165,111	*183,760*	1,950,435	*2,876,594*
	Exports.*			
American	20,131	*23,360*	171,605	*152,345*
Brazilian	482	*1,911*	2,153	*13,577*
East Indian	4,852	*4,593*	23,025	*24,664*
Egyptian	8,727	*5,994*	53,065	*91,165*
Miscellaneous	487	*1,090*	3,082	*7,293*
Total	34,679	*36,948*	255,930	*289,043*
	Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns.			
American	190,216	*206,048*	1,490,554	*1,655,373*
Brazilian	2,221	*12,534*	18,868	*75,493*
East Indian	3,804	*7,482*	29,096	*39,762*
Egyptian	30,098	*16,093*	190,271	*198,583*
Miscellaneous	2,976	*5,326*	24,386	*39,416*
Total	229,315	*247,473*	1,753,175	*2,009,026*
	Forwarded from Inland Towns to Ports.			
American	54	*22*	259	*221*
Brazilian	—	—	—	—
East Indian	—	—	—	—
Egyptian	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	—	*5*	20	*176*
Total	54	*27*	279	*397*

* Cotton "in transit" or "for transhipment under bond," *if described as such in the ships' reports*, is not included.

† Including 533 bales British West Indian and 1,592 bales British West African.

‡ „ 6,420 „ „ „ 4,829 „ „ „

§ Corrected figures.

Cotton Returns—*continued.*

Return of the **Number** of **Bales** of **Cotton Imported** and **Exported** at the **Various Ports** of the **United Kingdom** during the week and 28 weeks ended 9th July, 1908 :—

	Week ended 9th July, 1908.	28 Weeks ended 9th July, 1908.	Week ended 9th July, 1908.	28 Weeks ended 9th July, 1908.
	Imports. (Bales.)		Exports. (Bales.)	
	No.	No.	No.	No.
American	20,729	1,704,627*	4,685	183,799
Brazilian	—	18,667	—	2,253
East Indian	3,233	70,322*	2,543	26,450
Egyptian	1,920	274,958	566	57,938
Miscellaneous	1,737†	53,269‡	77	3,207
Total	27,619	2,121,843	7,871	273,647

* Corrected figures.

† Including 355 bales British West Indian and 12 bales British West African.

‡ Including 7,009 bales British West Indian and 5,009 bales British West African.

NOTE.—Cotton "in transit" or "for transhipment under bond," *if described as such in the ships' reports*, is not included in this return.

Corn Prices.

Statement showing the **Average Price** of **British Corn,** per quarter of 8 bushels, Imperial Measure,* as received from the Inspectors and Officers of Excise in the week ended 11th July, 1908, and corresponding weeks of the seven previous years pursuant to the Corn Returns Act, 1882.

	Average Price.					
	Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.	
	s.	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*
Week ended 11th July, 1908	30	5	24	4	18	5
Corresponding week in—						
1901	27	3	23	4	19	11
1902	30	11	23	8	22	10
1903	28	3	20	5	18	7
1904	26	10	18	9	17	6
1905	32	3	23	10	19	7
1906	30	5	23	8	20	4
1907	32	6	24	10	20	11

* Section 8 of the Corn Returns Act, 1882, provides that where returns of purchases of British Corn are made to the local inspector of Corn Returns in any other measure than the Imperial bushel or by weight or by a weighed measure that officer shall convert such returns into the Imperial bushel, and in the case of weight or weighed measure the conversion is to be made at the rate of sixty Imperial pounds for every bushel of wheat, fifty Imperial pounds for every bushel of barley, and thirty-nine Imperial pounds for every bushel of oats.

Imports of Agricultural Produce into the United Kingdom.

Account showing the Quantities of certain kinds of Agricultural Produce imported into the United Kingdom in the week ended 11th July, 1908, together with the quantities imported in the corresponding week of the previous year.

		Week ended 11th July, 1908.	*Corresponding Week in 1907.*
Animals, living :—			
Oxen, bulls, cows, and calves	Number.	5 958	*9,061*
Sheep and lambs	"	1,713	*1,089*
Swine	"	—	—
Horses	"	246	*283*
Fresh meat :—			
Beef (including refrigerated and frozen)	Cwts.	106,791	*126,594*
Mutton " " "	"	72,306	*88,515*
Pork " " "	"	3,834	*6,369*
Salted or preserved meat :—			
Bacon	Cwts.	93,947	*98,620*
Beef	"	3,205	*1,336*
Hams	"	32,990	*21,616*
Pork	"	5,593	*6,443*
Meat, unenumerated, fresh	"	13,709	*8,226*
" " salted	"	1,782	789
" preserved otherwise than by salting (including tinned and canned)	"	6,973	*11,164*
Dairy produce and substitutes :—			
Butter	Cwts.	95,071	*82,932*
Margarine	"	11,340	*16,145*
Cheese	"	97,240	*79,355*
Milk, fresh, in cans or drums	"	—	—
" cream	"	247	*123*
" condensed	"	20,909	*16,881*
" preserved, other kinds	"	32	*41*
Eggs	Grt. Hundr.	408,743	*275,485*
Poultry	Value £	1,889	*2,615*
Game	"	224	*24*
Rabbits, dead (fresh and frozen)	Cwts.	2,753	*1,290*
Lard	"	51,167	*36,086*
Corn, grain, meal, and flour :—			
Wheat	Cwts.	1,737,000	*2,536,600*
Wheat meal and flour	"	241,300	*227,300*
Barley	"	70,400	*216,100*
Oats	"	247,900	*290,700*
Peas	"	13,230	*17,320*
Beans	"	20,010	*440*
Maize or Indian corn	"	665,700	*1,066,900*
Fruit, raw :—			
Apples	Cwts.	2,297	*3,536*
Apricots and peaches	"	3,359	*3,226*
Bananas	Bunches.	155,097	*162,561*
Cherries	Cwts.	13,561	*12,284*
Currants	"	32,776	*33,688*
Gooseberries	"	7,276	*5,679*
Grapes	"	127	*210*
Lemons	"	47,311	*17,486*
Oranges	"	3,693	*31,796*
Pears	"	145	*677*
Plums	"	6,407	*85*
Strawberries	"	925	*2,135*
Unenumerated	"	6,816	*15,141*
Hay	Tons.	873	*2,056*
Straw	"	5	*1,108*
Moss litter	"	1,368	*1,585*
Hops	Cwts.	1,380	*4,590*
Locust beans	"	—	*6,421*
Vegetables, raw :—			
Onions	Bushels.	141,686	*104,661*
Potatoes	Cwts.	265,598	*349,938*
Tomatoes	"	39,421	*33,124*
Unenumerated	Value £	5,542	*5,473*
Vegetables, dried	Cwts.	1,297	*5,590*
Preserved by canning	"	1,483	*4,651*

Bankruptcy.—England and Wales.

Number of Receiving Orders and Administration Orders under Sec. 125 (Deceased Debtors' Estates) of the Act of 1883 gazetted in the undermentioned Principal Trades and Occupations during the periods indicated:—

	June.		Six months ending 30th June.	
	1908.	*1907.*	1908.	*1907.*
Total gazetted...	No. 337	*No. 340*	No. 2,229	*No. 2,119*
Number gazetted in principal trades and occupations:—				
Builders	22	*22*	174	*151*
Grocers	15	*20*	122	*118*
Publicans and hotel keepers, &c.	10	*30*	119	*136*
Farmers and graziers	14	*10*	96	*83*
Bakers	10	*10*	81	*56*
Butchers	18	*8*	71	*64*
Decorators, painters, plumbers, &c.	9	*8*	66	*49*
Greengrocers, fruiterers, &c.	3	*6*	50	*63*
Coal and coke merchants and dealers	8	*5*	42	*39*
Tailors	1	*7*	40	*54*
Boot and shoe manufacturers and dealers ...	10	*6*	40	*44*
Drapers, haberdashers, &c.	4	*7*	36	*45*
Clerks, commercial and general	3	*4*	33	*27*
Fishmongers, poulterers, &c.	7	*2*	31	*33*
Confectioners	3	*4*	30	*29*
Agents, commission and general	3	—	27	*21*
Carriers, carmen, lightermen, and hauliers ...	5	*5*	26	*29*
Dairymen, cowkeepers, &c.	4	*1*	25	*19*
Jewellers, watchmakers, silversmiths, &c. ...	2	*2*	23	*23*
Ironmongers	1	*2*	22	*9*
Furniture dealers and makers	4	*4*	21	*21*
Bicycle, &c., manufacturers and dealers ..	5	*1*	21	*16*
Carpenters and joiners	6	*2*	21	*12*
Tobacconists, &c.	5	*3*	20	*12*
Solicitors	7	*4*	20	*16*
Merchants, general	1	*2*	19	*17*
Engineers and founders, &c.	2	*3*	19	*10*
Directors and promoters of public companies ...	2	*1*	18	*9*
General dealers	2	*3*	17	*20*
Auctioneers	7	*2*	17	*20*

Bankruptcy.—England and Wales—*continued.*

	June.		Six months ending 30th June.	
	1908.	*1907.*	1908.	*1907.*
Number gazetted in principal trades and occupations—*continued.*	No.	*No.*	No.	*No*
Printers, booksellers, and publishers	2	*4*	16	*15*
Travellers, commercial, &c.	2	*3*	15	*24*
Corn, flour, seed, hay, and straw merchants and dealers	1	*5*	14	*25*
Restaurant, coffee and eating-house keepers	2	*3*	14	*15*
Doctors of medicine, physicians, &c.	3	*4*	14	*10*
Wheelwrights	4	—	14	*7*
Saddlers and harness makers	1	—	13	*9*
Blacksmiths, farriers, &c.	1	*5*	13	*14*
Stationers	2	*2*	13	*10*
Clothiers, outfitters, &c.	2	—	13	*9*
Cabinet makers and upholsterers	1	*3*	12	*16*
Timber merchants	2	*1*	12	*5*
Contractors	2	—	12	*8*
Architects and surveyors	3	*1*	12	*12*
Lodging-house keepers	3	*3*	12	*15*
Chemists, druggists and chemical manufacturers	3	*1*	12	*13*
Officers in Army	3	*1*	11	*12*
Milliners, dressmakers, &c.	—	—	10	*7*
Cattle and pig dealers	3	*2*	10	*8*
Brokers, stock and share	1	*3*	9	*10*
Schoolmasters and schoolmistresses	1	*2*	9	*9*
Carriage, &c., builders	1	*4*	9	*17*
China, glass, and earthenware, &c., dealers	3	*3*	9	*13*
Hairdressers	2	—	8	*11*
Gardeners, florists, &c.	2	*4*	8	*16*
Hosiers, glovers, &c.	1	—	7	*9*
Provision merchants	1	*2*	7	*20*
Millers	2	*1*	7	*7*
Wine and spirit merchants, &c.	—	—	6	*8*
Curriers, tanners, and leather merchants	1	*2*	6	*4*
Cab, omnibus and fly proprietors	—	*3*	5	*24*
Cotton spinners and manufacturers	1	—	5	—
Woollen merchants and manufacturers	1	*1*	5	*9*
Stone, marble and monumental masons	1	—	4	*7*

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

TRADE RETURNS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The Monthly Accounts relating to the Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom for the month of June, 1908, have been published. The accounts, which are issued on the 7th or 8th of each month, may be purchased at a cost, in the present instance, of 1*s.* 4*d.* per copy, either directly or through any bookseller, from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Fetter Lane, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; or Messrs. Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh; or Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

Attention is further called to the fact that two volumes of the "Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions" for the year 1907 have been issued, and may be purchased at any of the addresses enumerated above at a cost of 5*s.* 7*d.* for the first volume and 3*s.* 4*d.* for the second volume. This publication, which contains much more detailed and exhaustive information than can be given in the Monthly Accounts, gives in the first volume abstract tables for the years 1903-1907, and detailed statements of imports and exports of each article (from and to each country), and in the second volume details as to Customs revenue, transhipments and articles in bond, with particulars of the trade of the United Kingdom with each foreign country and British possession, and of the trade at each port of the United Kingdom.

BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE.

The "Board of Trade Labour Gazette"* is published by the Board of Trade on the 16th of each month. The following are among the more important articles which appear in the July issue:—State of the Labour Market in June; Cost of Living in German Towns; Wages Boards and Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Acts of Australia and New Zealand; Industrial Court and Wages Boards in New South Wales (New Law); Alien Passenger Movement in 1907; and Recent Conciliation Cases.

FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.

The following is a *résumé* of some of the more interesting subjects dealt with in Consular Reports of the **Annual** and **Miscellaneous Series** issued since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal":—

ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 4,056. Trade of Crete for the year 1907.

General economic conditions; openings for British trade.

Notes on principal imports.

Agricultural products and exports (olives, wine, raisins, oranges, &c.).

Shipping communications.

Postal facilities; telegraphs and telephones.

Transport conditions and improvements.

Currency; current import and export prices.

A map of the Island is included in the report.

* It can be purchased through any newsagent, price 1*d.*

Government Publications.

No. 4,057. Trade of the States of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana for the year 1907.

Import and export trade of Portland, with details of trade with the United Kingdom and Colonies.

Prevention of combinations.

Public works; ports and harbours, canals, railways, &c.

Notes on mining and other industries.

Forthcoming exhibition at Seattle.

Fisheries of Oregon and Washington.

Reports on the trade of Astoria, Port Townsend, Seattle, and Tacoma are appended.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

No. 668. The Hokkaido (Japan).

This report contains general observations on the commercial conditions, population, area, agricultural and mining industries, and communications of the Hokkaido, and detailed particulars of the harbours, population, area, finances, banks, industries, trade and shipping of the ports of Hakodate, Otaru and Muroran.

COLONIAL OFFICE REPORT.

The following report has been issued by the Colonial Office since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal," viz.:—

563. Gibraltar, 1907.

OTHER GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

Exports and Imports (United Kingdom). 185. *Price* 1½*d.*

This is a return showing for the years 1906 and 1907 the value of our exports to and consignments from France, the United States, Belgium, and Germany respectively, distinguishing between food, drink and tobacco, raw materials and manufactures.

Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade.

The Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade (73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.) is intended to be a centre at which information on all subjects of commercial interest shall be collected and classified in a form convenient for reference, and at which, so far as the interests of British trade permit, replies shall be given to enquiries by traders on commercial matters. On application being made to it either personally or by letter, the Branch supplies, so far as is possible, information with regard to the following subjects, viz.: Commercial Statistics; Matters relating to Foreign and Colonial Tariffs and Customs Regulations; Lists of Firms Abroad engaged in particular lines of business in different localities; Foreign and Colonial Contracts open to Tender; Sources of Supply, Prices, &c., of Trade Products; Forms of Certificates of Origin; Regulations concerning Commercial Travellers, &c., &c.

There is a Sample Room at the offices of the Branch, where, in addition to samples illustrative of reports of H.M. Consuls or of the Correspondents or Special Commissioners of the Board of Trade, specimens of special interest that may be received from India, the Colonies, &c., are exhibited from time to time. The Governments of India, Canada and Queensland have established, in proximity to the Commercial Intelligence Branch, at 73, Basinghall Street, special offices for dealing with trade matters (see below).

The "Board of Trade Journal" is the principal medium through which intelligence collected by the Commercial Intelligence Branch, and intended for general information, is conveyed to the public. The "Journal" is issued weekly at the price of 3*d*. All applications respecting subscription, or the purchase of single copies, should be addressed in London to Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, E.C.; in Edinburgh to Messrs. Oliver & Boyd; and in Dublin to Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street. Copies may also be obtained from Messrs. G. Street & Co., Ltd., 30, Cornhill, E.C.

All communications intended for the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade should be addressed to: *The Director, Commercial Intelligence Branch, Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.*

Indian and Colonial Trade Enquiry Offices.

India.—An India Trade Enquiry Office has been established at 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., for the purpose of supplying information as to the commercial products, manufactures and trades of British India. An India Office official is in daily attendance to answer personal or written enquiries. The current publications of the Government of India dealing with Indian trade statistics, tariff charges, railways, economic products, &c., are kept in the office, and can be consulted free: the various Indian Directories are also filed.

INDIAN AND COLONIAL TRADE ENQUIRY OFFICES—*continued.*

Canada.—The Canadian Government have opened an office at 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., under the designation of "Canadian Government City Trade Branch." A Canadian representative attends daily to deal with enquiries and applications regarding Canadian import and export trade, and to supply information about Canadian matters generally. Personal appointments can be arranged when desired.

Victoria.—The Government of Victoria (Australia) have an extensive and varied collection of products of the State on view at the Show Room of their London Offices (142. Queen Victoria Street, E.C.). Lists of the Exporters of the State, with their Agents in the United Kingdom, and full particulars relating to the trade, prospects, &c., of the State, can be obtained upon application to the Agent-General for Victoria, at the above address.

New South Wales.—With a view to facilitating the acquiring of information regarding the State's products, the New South Wales Government have a commercial branch attached to the Agent-General's Department at 123-125, Cannon Street, E.C. A great variety of specimens is on view—typical of the mineral, agricultural and other products of the country. Full information concerning the Colony is given gratis to all applicants.

Queensland.—The Agent-General for Queensland has opened a branch office at 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., where a representative attends daily to give information to enquirers regarding trade, mining, and all other matters relating to Queensland. Specimens of products representative of the pastoral, agricultural, and mining industries of Queensland are on view.

South Australia.—The Government of South Australia have established a Produce Department at the offices of the Agent General, Threadneedle House, 28, Bishopsgate Street Within, London, E.C., where specimens of every description of South Australian produce are now displayed. This Department will supply, free of cost, full information regarding the exports from South Australia of all sorts of produce.

Cape of Good Hope.—The Government of the Cape of Good Hope have offices at 98, Victoria Street, S.W., for the purpose of a Commercial Agency, under the superintendence of the Trades Commissioner, who supplies free information on trade subjects connected with the Colony, such as agricultural products, industries, trade, tariff regulations, commercial statistics, railway rates, &c., &c.

Natal.—The Government of Natal have established a Commercial Agency for that Colony at 26, Victoria Street, S.W., under the direction of the Agent-General. The Commercial Agent will supply, gratis, information on trade and industrial subjects connected with the Colony, commercial statistics, tariffs, railway rates, shipping freights, &c. Specimens of certain descriptions of Natal produce are on view.